



Docket No.: SHO-0023

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Masaaki Asonuma et al.

Application No.: 10/697,006

Confirmation No.: 8248

Filed: October 31, 2003

Art Unit: N/A

For: GAMING MACHINE

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Commissioner for Patents
PO BOX 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56. Applicant respectfully requests that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and formally be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

- ☒ A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §§1.97 and 1.98

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

1. Concise Explanation of Relevancy of the Document

☒ Where the information listed is not in the English language, but was cited in a search report or other action by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance can be satisfied by submitting an English-language version of the search report or action which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office. This may be an explanation of which portion of the reference is particularly relevant, to which claims it applies, or merely an "X", "Y", or "A" indication on a search report. (37 C.F.R. §1.98 and MPEP §609(A)(3)).

☒ Submission of an English language abstract of a reference may fulfill the requirement for a concise explanation. (37 C.F.R. §1.98 and MPEP §609(A)(3)).

☒ 5. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a final action under 37 CFR §1.113, a notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.311 or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)). Please charge deposit account 18-0013 in the amount of \$180.00 for payment of the fee under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

Dated: October 6, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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PTO/SB/08a/b (08-03)
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| Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary) | | | | Complete if Known | |
| | | | | Application Number | 10/697,006 – Conf. #8248 |
| | | | | Filing Date | October 31, 2003 |
| | | | | First Named Inventor | Takashi NOZAKI |
| | | | | Art Unit | N/A |
| | | | | Examiner Name | Not Yet Assigned |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 | Attorney Docket Number | SHO-0028 |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
| | | Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | | | |
| | AA | US2003/0087690-A1 | 05-08-2003 | Loose et al. | |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
| | | Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | |
| | BA | EP 1 111 558-A2 | | 12-22-2000 | Aruze Corp. | |
| | BB | EP 1 111 558-A3 | | 12-22-2000 | Aruze Corp. | |
| | BC | JP 2001-062130-A | | 03-13-2001 | Sankyo KK | |
| | BD | JP 2002-045547-A | | 02-12-2002 | Sankyo KK | |

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

| NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---|----------------|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | T ² |
| | CA | European Search Report mailed August 3, 2004 | |

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| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--|